

To:  
Chairman Rick Lopes  
Chairman Joseph Gresko  
Vice-Chairman Jan Hochadel  
Vice-Chairman Christine Palm  
Ranking Member Stephen Harding  
Ranking Member Patrick Callahan  
Members of the Environment Committee

From: Kimberly Stoner, New Haven

As the Director of Advocacy for CT NOFA: the Northeast Organic Farming Association of CT, I would like to testify on the following bills:

SB 298	PERMITTING FOR LOCAL BUTCHER SHOPS TO PROCESS FARMER-OWNED LIVESTOCK.	Support
SB979	ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN CITIES	Support
HB5577	SURPLUS FOOD DONATION AND ESTABLISHING FOOD COMPOSTING REQUIREMENTS	Support
HB6664	Managing Waste and Creating a Waste Authority	Expressing Concerns

SB298: This is strongly supported by livestock farmers across the state. The USDA does not have adequate processing capacity in our region. Farmers want to be able to get their USDA inspected carcasses processed for resale under inspection by the Department of Public Health. Farmers would also love to be able to support a local butcher shop for several reasons: to minimize the stress of birds during transport, reduce fuel usage, save time in off farm driving allowing for efforts to be better spent on other farm work and keeping dollars local to the state of Connecticut by supporting a local business.

SB979: Regional Transmission: This is a critical bottleneck in the renewable energy transition and the increased reliance on electricity for transportation and heating in addition to the long-term uses. CT needs clear authority to participate in the process of taking action on transmission and doing so in collaboration with the other New England states in the ISO-NE region. Again, this legislation provides that – both the technical/legal clarity and a signal to the other New England states that CT is ready to both lead and join this critical regional effort at accomplishing critical transmission needs.

Educational programs for plumbers and electricians to prepare them for the renewable energy future — Yes!

Urban Tree Canopy: The urban tree canopy is essential to cooling our cities, absorbing pollution, both mitigating and adapting to climate change. I agree with others who say the target of 5% is too low, but it is a start.

HB 5577: Diverting food that is still good from the waste stream is the best use of that food — better than composting, and certainly better than incineration or landfilling. I am personally and through my Quaker Meeting a supporter of Haven's Harvest, an excellent food rescue organization in Greater New Haven that diverts enormous quantities of food from the waste stream and delivers it to people who need it.

HB6664: I support the aspects of this bill that would expand the diversion of food scraps from the waste stream into composting. In particular, this bill would expand the number of institutions (food wholesalers, supermarkets, hospitals, schools, and more) required to send their organic waste to composting facilities or otherwise authorized collection locations. It would also require municipalities to separate and collect food scraps beginning in 2028, and to send these materials to an authorized facility to be processed "in a manner that promotes a beneficial use." According to DEEP, food scraps constitute more than twenty percent of Connecticut's waste stream, so such diversion measures are important to tackling the state's waste crisis. I would also support the cautions of the Conservation Law Foundation to make sure that "beneficial use" would truly be beneficial — especially with regard to protecting the compost stream from being contaminated by PFAS.

However, it is alarming to read the testimony of Just Zero that this bill as written would fail to exclude dangerous technologies like pyrolysis, gasification, solvolysis, and so-called "chemical recycling" or "advanced recycling" from the definitions of "recycling" and "post-consumer recycled content," respectively. It is also alarming that this bill would authorize a Request for Proposals for new waste incinerators in the state and would provide financial incentives for waste incineration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these bills, and thank you for your work on behalf of the people of Connecticut.